

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor mounted on a stern of a boat and having an internal combustion engine at its upper portion and a propeller at its lower portion that is powered by the engine to propel the boat, comprising:

a throttle actuator moving a throttle valve installed at an air intake pipe of the engine for regulating an amount of air to be sucked into the engine to change a boat running speed;

a shift actuator rotating a shift rod connected to a clutch such that clutch moves from a neutral position to engage with at least one of a forward gear that allows the boat to be propelled in a forward direction and a reverse gear that allows the boat to be propelled in a reverse direction opposite to the forward direction;

a steering actuator rotating a swivel shaft installed in the outboard motor such that the outboard motor is steered relative to the boat;

a group of devices installed on a control panel that is installed at stern brackets that connect the outboard motor to ~~at a position other than~~ the boat and each operable by an operator to generate a signal indicating that an instruction of the operator to operate at least one of the actuators is inputted; and

a controller controlling operation of at least one of the actuators in response to the generated signal.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the control panel is installed on the stern brackets at an end closer to the boat.

5. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the control panel is rotatable from a position where it is accommodated in a space defined by the stern brackets with its panel surface down, to a position closer to the boat with the panel surface up.

6. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the control panel is detachable from the stern brackets.

7. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 6, wherein the control panel is connected to the controller by a cable.

8. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 7, wherein the cable is made extendible.

9. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 7, further including:
a reel that winds the cable.

10. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 6, wherein the control panel is connected to the controller by radio.

11. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor according to claim 2, mounted on a stern of a boat and having an internal combustion engine at its upper portion and a propeller at its lower portion that is powered by the engine to propel the boat, comprising:

a throttle actuator moving a throttle valve installed at an air intake pipe of the engine for regulating an amount of air to be sucked into the engine to change a boat running speed;

a shift actuator rotating a shift rod connected to a clutch such that clutch moves from a neutral position to engage with at least one of a forward gear that allows the boat to be propelled in a forward direction and a reverse gear that allows the boat to be propelled in a reverse direction opposite to the forward direction;

a steering actuator rotating a swivel shaft installed in the outboard motor such that the outboard motor is steered relative to the boat;

a group of devices installed at stern brackets that connect the outboard motor to the boat and each operable by an operator to generate a signal indicating that an instruction of the operator to operate at least one of the actuators is inputted; and

a controller controlling operation of at least one of the actuators in response to the generated signal; and

wherein the group of devices is installed at a bar handle connected to the stern brackets.

12. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 11, wherein the bar handle is fastened to the stern brackets in such a manner that a distal end of the bar handle extends towards the boat.

13. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 12, wherein the group of devices is installed at the bar handle at a location close to the distal end.

14. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 11, wherein the bar handle is fixed to the stern brackets.

15. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 11, wherein the bar handle is connected to the stern brackets to be turnable about a vertical axis.

16. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 15, further including;
a turning angle sensor generating a signal indicative of an angle of turning of the bar handle;
and the controller controls the operation of the steering actuator based on the signal of the turning angle sensor.